GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3721
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
BLACK ILAICHI CROP
Rai Shri Nakul Das

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that Black Ilaichi (Large Cardamom) crop in Sikkim is being infected by a disease for the last so many years resulting in damaging/destroying of large quantity of crop;

(b) if so, whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted any research in this regard:

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the preventive/corrective measures being taken to check this disease to enable the farmers to save their Black Ilaichi Crops?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) ICAR Research Complex, Regional Station, Gangtok, Sikkim, is undertaking research on Large Cardamom. An expert team visited the Large Cardamom Plantations in Sikkim during 17-19 September, 2003 to study the disease problem of Large Cardamom. The expert team has submitted the detailed report on "Problems in Cultivation of Large Cardamom in Sikkim" including the management practices to be adopted against serious pests and diseases affecting this crop to the Department of Horticulture, Government of Sikkim during January, 2004. The expert team has provided short-range and long-range programmes for preventive/corrective measures to be adopted to check the disease on large cardamom.

(d) The immediate measure include adoption of shade regulation, mulching and drainage. Application of Bordeaux mixture (1%) is recommended as foliar spray. Rupees 55.0 lakh has been approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture for Integrated Pest Management for controlling insect pests and diseases in crops including Large Cardamom in Sikkim.